

#### **Ralls Co. SWCD Staff**

Martha Briscoe,  
District Manager  
Woody Holley,  
District Technician  
Paul Allgood,  
District Clerk

#### **NRCS Staff**

Gary Noel,  
District Conservationist  
Tim Zedelis,  
Soil Cons. Technician  
Mac Ellis,  
Resource Conservationist/  
Wildlife  
Lucas Brass  
Resource Conservationist

#### **MDC Staff**

Tim Brooks,  
Private Lands  
Conservationist



#### **Pike Co. SWCD Staff**

Debbie Scherder,  
Info/Ed., Dist. Clerk  
Jason Bolte,  
District Technician  
Liz Harrelson,  
District Bookkeeper

#### **NRCS Staff**

Gary Noel,  
District Conservationist  
Mike Pugh,  
Soil Cons. Technician  
Kimberly Sparks,  
Soil Conservationist

#### **MDC Staff**

Tim Brooks,  
Private Lands  
Conservationist

# **Pike/Ralls Conservation News**

February 2011

## **Pike County SWCD Holds Cost Share Sign-up**

The Pike County Soil & Water Conservation District will be conducting a sign-up for state cost-share funds **March 1 - March 31, 2011.**

**State cost-share funds are made available to local landowners to address erosion and water quality issues on land being used for agricultural purposes.**

**According to the MO Soil & Water Districts Commission rules for cost-share eligibility (10 CSR70.4.010(J), a farm is defined as a tract of land 3 acres or more in size, on which agricultural activities are normally performed, or a tract of land of any size from which \$1000 or more of agricultural products are sold in a year.**

Each application will be ranked to determine whether it meets state cost-share guidelines, and according to conservation benefits and cost effectiveness. Priority will be given to applications for practices in fields that are planted in wheat or no crop at all. Fields that can be worked in at the beginning of the fiscal year (July 1) will receive higher ranking than those not available until after fall harvest. Funds will be appropriated during the fiscal year 2012

(beginning July 1, 2011), based on the above criteria. The number of applications approved will be determined by the amount of state funds we receive.

Pike County will be offering cost-share on all of the practices that we have cost-shared on in the past, such as Permanent Vegetative Establishment, Permanent Vegetative Cover Improvement, Terrace Systems, No-Till Systems, Water Impoundment Reservoirs, Sediment Retention Structures, Waterways, Diversions, and Grazing Systems. In addition to these practices, our district will be offering practices that are new to our county. They include Timber Harvest Plans, Restoration of Skid Trails, Field Borders, Nutrient Management, Spring Development, and Well Decommissioning.

Participants in the Cost-Share Program will receive a reimbursement from DNR that amounts to 75% of the state average cost for that particular practice. DNR has a maximum payment allowed for some of the practices. Pike County has a limit of \$15,000 per landowner, per fiscal year for cost-share funding. This policy allows the district to serve more

landowners with the state funds we receive.

Any practice applied for, but not funded during the next fiscal year, because of low ranking practice or lack of funds, will receive notification of non-approval, and can sign up again the following year.

Funding for the State Cost-Share Program is provided by the one tenth of 1% State Parks and Soils tax.

For a detailed list of district board approved practices, contact the Pike county field office at (573)324-3201 ext. 3. Our hours are 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Mon. through Fri.

### **National Wild Turkey Federation's Operation Oak**

If you are a member of the National Wild Turkey Federation you can take advantage a member benefit program that Missouri has to offer. Operation Oak is our FREE tree program that comes out of the national projects 24% split. Through this program Missouri has 15,600 seedlings consisting of red, swamp white, and pin oak available to members on a first come first served basis. Currently there are still 11,625 seedlings still available. Order forms can be found on the home page of the state website ([www.monwtf.org](http://www.monwtf.org)).



Maddy Perry was the top Pike County Poster winner in the 2010 Poster Contest. Maddy, a student at St. Clement Catholic School, is the daughter of Maureen Perry.

## CONTROLLED BURN WORKSHOP

An indoor, prescribed burn training will be held from 9:00am to 12:00pm, at the American Legion in Louisiana, MO on Saturday, March 5, 2011. This workshop is designed to assist landowners who are interested in using a controlled burn as a tool on their property. Any landowner enrolled in CRP, who wishes to use burning as their required mid-contract management, must attend a workshop prior to having a burn plan developed by one of our agencies. Lunch and refreshments will be provided for all participants.

The training will be conducted by Tim Brooks, Private Land

Conservationist for MDC. The American Legion Hall is located at 420 Kelly Lane in Louisiana, and the phone number for the Hall is 573-754-4370. To register for the workshop, please contact the Pike County NRCS office at 573-324-3201, ext. 3, by Wednesday, March 2.

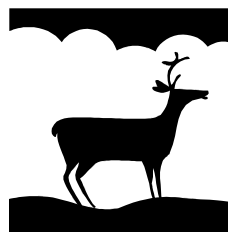


## 2010 Pike Co. Share The Harvest Program

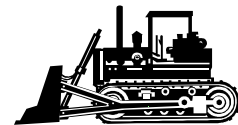
The Pike Co. Share the Harvest program proved to be another HUGE Success in 2010. Hunters from many different places were generous enough to donate their whole deer to the program. This year our 3 processors (L&M Processing, Hilty's Custom Butchering, and Wood's Smoked Meats) handled a total of 228 deer which generated 12,156 lbs. of venison that is distributed to various food pantries around the region.

The total program cost for the 2010 Pike Co. Share the Harvest program was \$15,429.97. A HUGE THANK YOU goes out to everyone that donated this to make this the #1 program in Missouri. The list of organizations and individuals that donated are:

The Conservation Federation of Missouri  
The Martinsburg Community Church  
The Louisiana American Legion Post #370  
The Louisiana American Legion Auxiliary Unit #370  
The Sons of the American Legion  
The Louisiana Boat Club  
All Way Incorporated of Bowling Green  
Malinmor Hunt Club  
Kyle & Tiffany Reid  
Mr. Chuck Drury  
Mr. Bill Wahl  
Witte Brothers of Troy  
Super 8 Motel of Bowling Green  
The Pike Co. Twin River's NWTF Chapter



## CONTRACTOR WORKSHOP



A Contractor's workshop/ breakfast will be held at 8:00 am at the 1st Christian Church Multi-purpose Room in Frankford, MO on **Wednesday, February 16, 2010**. All contractors doing conservation practices, including ponds or structures, in Pike or Ralls Counties are strongly encouraged to attend.

Breakfast will be served at 8:00am, and important information will be discussed during the workshop to follow.

Please contact the Pike County office at 573-324-3201, ext. 3, or the Ralls County Office at 573-985-8611, ext. 3, to reserve your spot for breakfast and workshop by Monday, February 14.

## CRP Required Management Practices

Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) management practices are required on all enrolled CRP land in the third to sixth year of contract. Management practices will be applied on one third up to half (1/3 - 1/2) of the contract acreage per year. Unless total contract acreage is less than 20 acres the landowner has an option to complete all acres at once. The landowner has three management practices to choose from that are listed below.

### STRIP DISKING

Provides essential open habitat and promotes annual seed-producing plants. Disked strips (a maximum of 75 feet wide) are to be rotated with un-disked strips (2 times the disked width) across the field on the contour. Disking shall be 2 to 4 inches deep.

#### Strip Disking Dates

July 16 - December 31

### PRESCRIBED BURNING

Prescribed burning removes heavy thatch and encourages the growth of wildflowers, legumes, and seed-producing plants. Prescribed burns should be conducted on each contract acre on a 3-year rotation. In any one year, approximately 1/3 to 1/2 of the contract acreage, including firebreaks, shall be burned. Producers are strongly encouraged to request a "Prescribed Burn Plan" well in advance of these dates from their local NRCS office.

#### Prescribed Burning Dates:

Cool season grasses: March 15 - April 30

Warm season grasses: July 16 - March 15

### CHEMICAL APPLICATION

An application of herbicide can temporarily set back the growth of one grass species to allow for the growth of wildflowers, forbs, and legume species to increase the stand's diversity. In any one year, herbicides may be applied on approximately 1/3 to 1/2 of each contract field. Herbicide application rates must be consistent with the label for the product for temporarily retarding vegetative growth without completely killing the species to be controlled.

#### Chemical Application Dates

Native warm season grasses: May 1 - September 15

Cool season grasses: March 15 - May 15 or October 1 - December 1

**\*Mowing is only allowed prior to the application of one of the management practices above, and is limited to the contract acres on which the management treatment will be applied.**

Management practices CAN NOT be performed during the Primary Nesting Season (May 1 to July 15) on either cool or warm season grasses.

If Landowners want to deviate from their original CRP Conservation Plan or have questions containing their contract need to contact Farm Service Agency (FSA) at 573-324-3201 ext.2 or NRCS, ext. 3.

## New EQIP Cost Share Money Available

Funds are now available through the NRCS Environmental Quality Incentive Program (EQIP), for Pike and Ralls County landowners and producers interested in improving the energy efficiency of their farming operations. You may sign up for the EQIP Energy Initiative, now through February 18, 2011 for cost assistance to hire a NRCS certified Technical Service Provider (TSP) to develop a farm energy management plan. The TSP will conduct an energy audit that will identify and evaluate the energy management opportunities on your farm. Operators need to know how much energy is being used and where it is being used before changes in efficiency can be measured. Once energy consumption and costs have been measured, a management plan outlining which actions are most efficient and which steps are needed to make necessary changes can be implemented. Payment rates to acquire the energy management plan will vary based on the size of the farming operation. The energy management plan will be necessary if future EQIP incentives payments become available to help participants pay for applying or installing new energy efficient equipment or machinery.

EQIP sign-up is open now through March 4, 2011 for High Tunnels, and producers who are USDA certified Organic Farmers or those who are working towards organic certification and need cost assistance to apply conservation practices on their land. There is a long list of conservation practices available, including the new High Tunnel practice that has caught the interest of many. The High Tunnel practice is available for both organic and non organic producers.

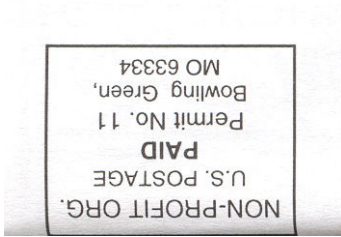
To learn more about these programs contact us at the Bowling Green USDA Service Center or call the office 573/324-3201 ext 3 or the New London office at 573-985-8611 ext 3. Do not delay in contacting us or you may miss this opportunity.

Funds for this Newsletter and all SWCD programs are provided by the Missouri Parks, Soils & Water Tax.

Pike Co. Supervisors  
Jim Hubert  
Charlie Becker  
Rick Merritt  
Wayne Shannon  
Kenneth Turpin

Ralls Co. Supervisors  
Ritchie Wasson  
John Roy Chipman  
Albert Kenneth  
David Palmer  
Ryan Hulise

Pike & Ralls County SWCD  
1220 S. Business Hwy. 61  
Bowling Green, MO 63334



## PIKE / RALLS STAFF MEMBERS RECOGNIZED



Pictured are staff members who were recognized for their contributions to the Pike County SWCD Annual Outdoor Classroom. From l-r: Mike Pugh, Pike NRCS; JR Flores, NRCS State Conservationist; Tim Brooks, Pike MDC; Kim Sparks, Pike NRCS; Jason Bolte, Pike SWCD; and Mack Ellis, Ralls NRCS. The Pike SWCD Annual Outdoor Classroom, started in 1994, takes place in September, and serves all Pike County 4th, 5th and 6th grade students.

Tim Zedialis (pictured below) and Mike Pugh (far left) were both recognized for the technical service they provide to their local Soil & Water Conservation District Boards, and landowners in Pike County and Ralls county. Tim and Mike serve as Soil Conservation Technicians, and are responsible for surveying, staking and designing conservation practices for agriculture land in Pike and Ralls County.

